Message

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Sent: 3/26/2020 7:33:13 PM

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Subject: OECA Memorandum Regarding Implications of COVID-19 on the Compliance and Assurance Program **Attachments**: COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program (March 26, 2020).pdf

In response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on normal operations, the EPA has elected to exercise the enforcement discretion specified in the attached memorandum for noncompliance covered by this temporary policy which occurred as a result of the pandemic; as long as those regulated entities take the steps applicable to their situations, as set forth in this policy. For noncompliance that occurs during the period of time that this temporary policy is in effect, and have occurred as a result of impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, this policy will apply to such noncompliance in lieu of an otherwise applicable EPA enforcement response policy.

This policy takes effect retroactively beginning on March 13, 2020. While this policy only applies to EPA actions, authorized states or tribes may take a similar or different approach under their own authorities. The EPA will undertake to coordinate with other federal agencies in situations where the EPA shares jurisdiction over a regulated entity's environmental compliance obligations.

The EPA will assess the continued need for this temporary policy on a regular basis and will update it if the EPA determines modifications are necessary. In order to provide fair and sufficient notice to the public, the EPA will post a notification at least seven days prior to terminating this temporary policy at the following web address: https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-policy-guidance-publications,.

Please feel free to share this information. If you have any questions about this temporary policy, please get back with either Mary Mindrup or myself.

Kurt F. Hildebrandt

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